tourists and for deploying Tourist Police. However, no specific guidelines for foreign tourists have been issued.

Serving of liquor during domestic flights

†2332. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to serve liquor on demand to the passengers in aircrafts during domestic flights;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government intends to consider any such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A proposal has been submitted by the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) and other organizations. However, Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

Air services from Dehradun airport

†2333. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any date has been fixed to re-start aeroplane operation on expanded air strip of Jauljivi in Dehradun, Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of airlines operating air services from this airport;

(d) whether Indian Airlines is also going to start air service on Delhi-Dehradun sector; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air Deccan has commenced morning and evening air services on Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi sector with ATR-42 aircraft w.e.f. 30th March, 2008 in addition to the non-scheduled air services which were already in operation.

(d) and (e) Operations of flights to a particular station depends upon resource availability and commercial viability. National Aviation Company of Indian Limited or its subsidiaries at present have no firm plan to operate flights on this sector.

Repatriation of foreign pilots

2334. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sudden aviation boom of past three years has resulted in hiring of trained foreign pilots;

(b) if so, how many foreign pilots are presently employed by scheduled Indian carriers;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what short-term and long-term steps are being initiated so that we have adequate number of trained Indian pilots; and

(d) the anticipated time-frame when all the trained foreign pilots of scheduled carriers would be finally repatriated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Civil aviation industry in the country is facing a shortage of type rated pilots. In order to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of pilots, 944 foreign pilots have been engaged by various scheduled airline operators.

(c) The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled Indian pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for pilots, upgradation and modernization of training infrastructure of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity from 40 to 100 pilots per year, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra for training 100 cadets and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)/Aero Club of India.

(d) DGCA has advised all scheduled, non scheduled and general aviation operators to submit their plan to phase out foreign pilots and replace them by trained Indian pilots rated in the aircraft operated by them. As per the plan submitted by the operators, all the foreign pilots are likely to be repatriated in approximately five years time.

License for international flights

2335. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private airlines given licenses to operate on international routes, route-wise and frequency-wise;

(b) the basis on which such licenses are awarded; and

(c) the commercial and operational obligations of such airlines flying on international routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, only two Private Scheduled airlines *viz.* Jet Airways and JetLite (erstwhile Air Sahara) are operating scheduled international operations. Jet Airways is operating daily services on Mumbai-Bahrain, Cochin-Bahrain, Kolkata-Dhaka, Mumbai-Brussels-New York, Delhi-Brussels-New York, Chennai-Brussels-Toronto, Delhi-Kuwait, Cochin-Kuwait, Chennai-Kaula Lumpur, Cochin-Muscat, Calicut-Muscat, Mumbai-Doha, Calicut-Doha, Mumbai-Singapore, Delhi-Singapore, Chennai-Singapore, Chennai-Colombo, Delhi-Bangkok, Kolkata-Bangkok, Delhi-London, Amritsar-London and Mumbai-Hong Kong sectors. Further, Jet Airways is operating 4 services per week on Delhi-Dhaka, 12 services per week on Delhi-Kathmandu and 14 services per week on Mumbai-London sectors. On the other hand, JetLite is operating daily services on Delhi-Kathmandu and Chennai-Colombo sectors.

(b) As per the current Government policy, Indian scheduled carriers having continuous operations of 5 years in the domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are eligible to operate on international routes. Both Jet Airways and JetLite fulfill this eligibility criteria to operate on international routes.